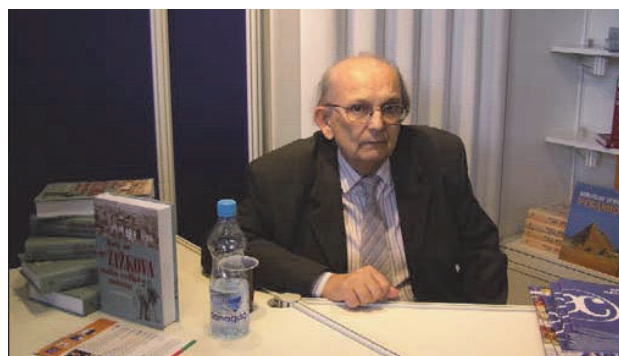


Editorial

In 2017, *Photosynthetica* celebrates 50 years of service to the field of photosynthesis research. Beside this, we must also remember the 85th birth anniversary of the *Photosynthetica* founder, RNDr. Zdeněk Šesták, DrSc. (1932–2008). He served as its executive editor, and later as the editor-in-chief, since its launching in 1967. The idea to publish a specialized journal dedicated to photosynthesis was actually his own. More details can be found in Govindjee *et al.* (2002).



The history of *Photosynthetica* in dates. E – English, F – French, G – German; IF – impact factor; Vol. – volume.

| Year | Vol. | Editor in Chief | Executive Editor | Distributor | Pages | Language | Remarks | IF |
|------|-------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|--|---------|
| 1967 | 1 | Ivan Málek | Zdeněk Šesták | Institute of Experimental Botany | 320 | E, F, G | Printed version | |
| 1969 | 3 | | | Dr. W. Junk Publishers | | | | |
| 1971 | 5 | Bohdan Slavík | Zdeněk Šesták | | | | | |
| 1977 | 11 | | | | 480 | | | 1.1–1.2 |
| 1986 | 20 | | | Kluwer Academic Publishers | | | | |
| 1991 | 25 | Zdeněk Šesták | | | | E | | |
| 1992 | 26-27 | | | | 640 | | | |
| 1997 | 33 | | | Springer | | | Printed + electronic versions | 0.941 |
| 2006 | 44 | | Ivana Štětinová | | | | | |
| 2008 | 46 | Jan Nauš | | | | | | 1.000 |
| 2009 | 47 | | | | | | Peer-review online system, associate editors | 1.072 |
| 2011 | 49 | | | | | | Online-first | 1.000 |
| 2012 | 50 | Helena Synková | | | | | | 0.862 |
| 2014 | 52 | | | | | | Open access, hybrid journal | 1.409 |
| 2015 | 53 | | | | | | | 1.558 |
| 2016 | 54 | | | | | | | 1.507 |
| 2017 | 55 | | | | 720 | | | |

The list of all members of the editorial board and associated editors – the first editorial board from 1967 is mentioned in the alphabetical order and the other editors in the order in which they appeared in the editorial board during following years 1968–2017:

M.C. Anderson (*Canberra*);
S. Aronoff (*Ames*);
M. Avron (*Rehovoth*);
J. Čatský (*Prague*);

F.E. Eckardt (*Montpellier*);
K. Egle (*Frankfurt/M.*);
C.S. French (*Stanford*);
P. Gaastra (*Wageningen*);

T.W. Goodwin (*Liverpool*);
A.A. Krasnovsky (*Moscow*);
S. Kuroiwa (*Kyoto*);
J. Květ (*Brno*);

- O.L. Lange (*Wuirzburg*);
W. Larcher (*Innsbruck*);
E.R. Lemon (*Ithaca*);
G. Lerch (*Gatersleben*);
H. Metzner (*Tübingen*);
F.L. Milthorpe (*Sutton Bonington*);
M. Monsi (*Tokyo*);
J.L. Monteith (*Harpending*);
A. Moysé (*Orsay*);
A.A. Nichiporovich (*Moscow*);
A. Pirson (*Göttingen*);
H. Polster (*Graupa/Pima*);
J. Ross (*Tartu*);
H. Sagromsky (*Gatersleben*);
I. Šetlík (*Třeboň*);
A.A. Shlyk (*Minsk*);
C. Sironval (*Sint-Truiden*);
B. Slavík (*Prague*);
H. Tamiya (*Tokyo*);
K.H. Vejlby (*Kobenhavn*);
H.L. Virgin (*Göteborg*);
C.P. Whittingham (*London*);
O.V. Zalensky (*Leningrad*);
J. Zurzycki (*Kraków*);
- P.G. Jarvis (*Aberdeen*);
E.C. Wassink (*Wageningen*);
A. Madsen (*Kobenhavn*);
O.V. Zalenskii (*Leningrad*);
P. Hoffmann (*Berlin*);
- J.J. Landsberg (*Canberra*);
L. Nátr (*Prague*);
A.Yu. Borisov (*Moscow*);
H.P. Fock (*Kaiserslauten*);
G. Forti (*Milano*);
E. Latzko (*Münster*);
O. Machold (*Gatersleben*);
A.T. Mokronosov (*Moscow*);
F.W.T. Penning de Vries (*Manila*);
S. Wieckowski (*Krakow*);
S. Demeter (*Szeged*);
C. H. Foyer (*Versailles*);
H.K. Lichtenthaler (*Karlsruhe*);
G.C. Papageorgiou (*Athens*);
J. Pospíšilová (*Prague*);
D. Sofrová (*Prague*);
W.J. Vredenberg (*Wageningen*);
J.-M. Briantais (*Orsay*);
M.L. Champigny (*Orsay*);
N. Karapetyan (*Moscow*);
A. Laisk (*Tarfu*);
C. Schnarrenberger (*Berlin*);
C.A. Sunddquist (*Göteborg*);
H.R. Bolhar-Nordenkamp (*Wien*);
F. Franck (*Liege*);
C. Wilhelm (*Leipzig*);
J.-M. Ducruet (*Gif-sur-Yvette*);
G. Garab (*Szeged*);
B. Gielen (*Wilrijk*);
T. Janda (*Martonvásár*);
- A. Post (*Jerusalem*);
A. Telfer (*London*);
Z. Tuba (*Gödöllő*);
C. Buschmann (*Karlsruhe*);
L. Gratani (*Roma*);
P. Mohanty (*Hyderabad*);
X. Dong (*Uvalde*);
D. Lazár (*Olomouc*);
G. Baumann (*Potsdam*);
M. Durchan (*České Budějovice*);
J. Hudák (*Bratislava*);
J. Komenda (*Třeboň*);
J. Kruk (*Krakow*);
O. Prášil (*Třeboň*);
C. Zavalloni (*Udine*);
M. Barták (*Brno*);
A. Pavlovič (*Bratislava*);
S. Allakhverdiev (*Moscow*);
C. Büchel (*Frankfurt*);
J. Flexas (*Palma de Mallorca*);
R. Goss (*Leipzig*);
H. Kalaji (*Warsaw*);
M. Landi (*Pisa*);
I. Terashima (*Tokyo*);
R. Valcke (*Hasselt*);
Y. Guo (*Xiamen*);
P. Lambrev (*Szeged*);
J. Bunce (*Beltsville*);
J. Gulías (*Palma de Mallorca*).

Here, we would like to add a few personal memories from Dr. Šesták's colleagues and friends:

Zdeněk Šesták, as we knew him

Dr. Šesták was one of the kindest, and most wonderful person I have known in my life. I met him even before the Czech Republic was an independent country; it was Czechoslovakia. I remember the great excitement and pride he showed for the country after its independence from the Soviets – in the 1990s. For all of us in photosynthesis research, Dr. Šesták was the first person to think of and succeed in getting a journal established and published, just only for photosynthesis; this was in 1967, and the journal was named *Photosynthetica* (see Šesták 1992, Govindjee *et al.* 2002). All of us appreciate the wonderful service Dr. Šesták had given to the photosynthesis community, for years, by not only initiating and mentoring the first journal in photosynthesis, but for publishing at regular intervals, in those early days (with no internet or web site), an all-encompassing bibliography of all the literature in photosynthesis; these were highly useful to all the researchers in the field. As soon as I would receive the copy of this Bibliography from Czechoslovakia, by post, I would immediately bring it to the attention of all my graduate students.

Dr. Šesták and I exchanged mail by regular Airmail post; once when I was invited to give a seminar in Berlin (sometimes in the 1970s), he invited me to give a seminar in his Institute in Prague, which I accepted. When I was in his office, I asked him when should we go for the “seminar”? Instead of responding to my question, he handed me an envelope with money in it! I asked, “What is this?” He said it is your honorarium for your talk. I responded, “I cannot accept the honorarium until I give the seminar”. He smiled and said that

he did not want to tell me earlier that today is a holiday and there are no students (or scientists) to listen to my lecture! So... I put my “slides” in the slide projector in his room, and gave my “seminar” just to him alone. This was the first and the last time I have given a seminar to an audience of one. It is indeed history to me.

I was invited another time (sometimes in the 1990s) to the Czech Republic, and this time it was, I believe, for a conference in Nové Hradky. This visit was equally memorable since Dr. Šesták acted again as our host when we stayed in Prague for a day; my wife Rajni was with me. Well, Dr. Šesták gave us a wonderful walking tour of Prague—it took us hours; he took us to all the historical sites and gave us a running commentary with great enthusiasm and details—like who did what and when on which street! It was an amazing “treat”. On top of it we had to walk very fast to catch up with his pace. After several hours, both Rajni and I were physically tired, but not Dr. Šesták. After a wonderful meal in an authentic Czech restaurant, he wanted to show us more of Prague. We had to admit to him that we could not walk anymore. He was very considerate and understanding. Although we don't remember the history we learnt from him that day, we have very fond memories of Dr. Šesták. We remember him as a kind, friendly, and gentle person, full of life, full of anecdotes, and an authority not only in photosynthesis, but also in the history of the Czech Republic; I marveled (and still do) both his wonderful memory and energy. The entire photosynthesis committee misses him.

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References

Govindjee; Šesták, Z. and Peters, W.R.: The early history of "Photosynthetica", "Photosynthesis Research", and their publishers. – *Photosynthetica* **40**: 1-11, 2002.

Šesták, Z.: History of photosynthesis research in Czechoslovakia. – *Photosynthetica* **27**: 1-37, 1992.

I was working with Zdeněk Šesták for 16 years. Looking back, I feel I have „infected“ myself by *Photosynthetica* during that period. As I can remember, Zdeněk Šesták had never taught me directly how to do a journal but I learned everything through everyday cooperation with him. Let me put a few mostly funny memories:

- „Ivanka, you know everything...“ – it was the favourite sentence of Dr. Šesták in cases he wanted me to do something unusual or new on a computer which he didn't like very much. I always disputed: „It's not true, doctor, but I will try ...“ How funny to hear this from a man with such a deep knowledge in many areas – biology, art, history, languages...
- After publishing of a new issue, we were preparing an account of the work made for it. When we finished our reckoning, he always left me with a sentence: „So, we small mice, have finished!“ I expected it with pleasure and was never disappointed.
- When I had been working in the editorial office for a few years, I traced some repeating situations which, I suppose, were not specific only for *Photosynthetica*. Once I wrote them as „Nine editorial laws“:
 1. Law of the Editor-in-Chief (EIC)
 EIC must be like a dog. Beware of him if he breaks loose.
 2. Law of humanity
 Even if EIC is like a dog, don't be afraid of him since he is only a man, too.
 3. Law of EIC infallibility
 EIC is (almost) always right.
 4. Law of fluid incidence of EIC
 If you have an unsolvable problem, open your heart to EIC. In his presence, a great idea how to solve it easily immediately comes into your mind.
 5. Law of stretched rubber band
 The more energy you spend on working flexibly and quickly, the more flexible and stronger response you meet to your mistakes.

6. Law of mutual compensation

The more responsibly you consider your work, the more depreciation of its importance you meet. If you relax a little, you are brought to more responsibility for your work.

7. Law of a small English lord

If everything works well, it isn't necessary to talk about it. If any problem appears, you will be warned at the earliest occasion.

8. Law of compliment

If you are praised, be careful – it's a sign EIC wants you to do something.

9. Law of a problematic paper

If there are problems with a paper from the very beginning, they will persist until its publication or even continue onwards.

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Dr. Zdeněk Šesták was my supervisor during my PhD studies and then later he was my boss as a head of our department. He pushed me ahead all the time in a good sense of this word, even if I was not so happy for it. I remember him as a man of words and writing, because at the time, when my PhD studies started, he had not been working at the lab anymore. I must admit that he helped me the most by his brilliant abilities to correct what was written and to find the best way how to express what was necessary to write. Many times when he seemed to be more or less satisfied with my written report, I had found my text full of his red pencil corrections.

One of my personal memories of him, when he really saved me, concerns one special exam. He was a member of an examination jury. This particular exam had nothing to do with natural sciences, but it was inevitable part of PhD studies in old days of communist era in our country. It was the exam of marxism-leninism. I do not remember what was the question which I had to answer. The point was that I was not able to make any reasonable statement on that topic. I was babbling total nonsense and then I left the room with very bad feelings of coming disaster. Later, when astonishing verdict of the jury was „passed“, I was really surprised. I realized that it was mainly because of Dr. Šesták's effort to convince the examiner that it was not so bad after all. I had been really grateful to my supervisor that he did not put me down. Anyway, he made many jokes on this topic in the following years.

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Once upon a time, I was one of Dr. Šesták's PhD students. I spent with him almost whole of my professional and more than half of my personal life cycle.

We worked together for so many years as a supervisor and a disciple with substantial distance between us done not only by a generation gap but also by a manner of those days. We communicated only professionally. Unobtrusively, gradually and surprisingly, his deep knowledge of history and interest in the culture and the arts appeared during our common lunch breaks. It was great pleasure to listen to his erudite narration. In consequence, he succeeded to persuade quite a lot of colleagues to join him in the *club of friends of fine arts*. Our group attended art exhibitions and expert lectures together. Fondness of Dr. Šesták for Prague history, architecture and attractions was displayed also during sightseeing with international guests to our laboratory. Such knowledge was actually encyclopaedic and together with his systematic and enthusiastic work with catalogues in libraries led to two books about the history of Prague quarter Žižkov. In this area, Dr. Šesták was just invincible. Quite unexpectedly I could enjoy this attribute during our common attendance to the conference Arbeitstagung Photosynthese in Egsdorf close to Berlin in 1994 and 1996. The travel by train took more than four hours; so to pass the time, we talked without a pause and the trip became not so long, not so boring! Suddenly we could accept each other as persons, not only as colleagues. This was unforeseen and pleasant

switch for me. Dr. Šesták guided me all through Berlin and showed me the historical monuments; we also attended several exhibitions. He did not need (almost) to eat and drink during such a day-long sightseeing and was able to talk and talk withal. On the contrary, I was totally exhausted. I admired his knowledge, endurance and physical persistence. In case of necessity he was not only able to walk all day long, but also eventually run to catch a bus. Amazing! I experienced such moments several more times during later common visits to universities abroad. In this way, I still remember my boss, tutor and colleague.

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I spent twelve years of my life in the lab of Dr. Šesták as his assistant, postgraduate student, and junior scientist. This was my best period in science. Thanks to his sound scientific background and wide range of his interests also outside science; he created interesting ideas and thanks to his editorial experience that even the preparation of papers was a pleasant and instructive work.

Once he told us a story about his participation in a *Congress on Photosynthesis*, held in early seventies. Travelling to western countries was nearly impossible for scientists during this period, after the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968. But the organizers of the congress wanted to have Dr. Šesták, as a respected scientist, there. As a common practice of communist bureaucrats for justification of banning travelling abroad was stating lack of funds, but the organizers officially offered to cover all the expenses of this journey. Finally, Dr. Šesták left for the Congress; when he got his badge after his arrival he found out which sponsor was assigned to him. He saw "Zdeněk Šesták, NATO delegate" on the badge. It was amusing, but he immediately realized that it could make great troubles to him if communist's secret police finds out that. He lived in tension for some time after his return, but fortunately he was neither invited for interrogation nor fired from the Institute. Let's hope such happenings like this will never repeat again.

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